

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 GENEVA 01097 210932Z

43

ACTION EUR-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 1097

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: CSCE: MEETING WITH SOVIET DELEGATION HEAD

1. SUMMARY. DURING INITIAL TWO-HOUR COURTESY CALL BY AMB SHERER, SOVIET DELEGATION HEAD DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER KOVALEV STRESSED NEED TO MOVE DRAFTING AHEAD QUICKLY, AND COMPLAINED ABOUT DUTCH DRAFT FRAMEWORK PAPER AS RAISING MAJOR QUESTIONS WHICH WERE NOT YET MATURE FOR DISCUSSION. END SUMMARY.

2. RELATIONS BETWEEN US AND SOVIET DELS -- SHERER, IN INITIAL COURTESY CALL ON KOVALEV FEB 20, EXPRESSED HOPE THAT USEFUL WORKING RELATIONS BETWEEN US AND SOVIET DELEGATIONS WOULD CONTINUE AS BEFORE, AND SUGGESTED LUNCHEON TO INCLUDE PERHAPS SIX MEMBERS OF EACH DEL AS MEANS FOR EXPANDING THESE RELATIONS. KOVALEV AGREED TO LUNCHEON AND THOUGHT MORE FREQUENT INFORMAL CORRIDOR CONTACTS WOULD ALSO BE FRUITFUL.

2. PACE OF WORK -- REFERRING TO COMMUNIQUE OF GROMYKO VISIT TO WASHINGTON KOVALEV SAID MAIN CSCE PROBLEM NOW WAS HOW TO SPEED UP WORK OF CONFERENCE. SOVIETS APPRECIATED RECENT USDEL INITIATIVE FOR GREATER FLEXIBILITY IN WORK SCHEDULE, TO PERMIT GREATER PROGRESS, BUT CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 GENEVA 01097 210932Z

SOME DELEGATIONS WERE STILL TRYING TO DELAY THINGS. SOVIET LEADER-

SHIP WAS DISSATISFIED WITH THE PACE OF CSCE WORK. KOVALEV RECOGNIZED THAT THIS ATTITUDE IS SHARED BY USDEL AND AUTHORITIES IN WASHINGTON, BUT URGED USDEL TO JOIN SOVIETS IN SPEAKING OUT ON THIS SUBJECT IN COORDINATING COMMITTEE. IF US AND USSR TOOK JOINT POSITION ON THIS, IT WOULD HAVE SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON CSCE. SHERER SAID HE WOULD REFLECT ON THIS SUGGESTION. WE ALSO WISH TO CARRY OUT SPIRIT OF WASHINGTON COMMUNIQUE. QUESTION WAS WHAT WOULD HAVE GREATER EFFECT ON PACE OF WORK -- EXHORTATIONS OR CONCRETE STEPS TOWARD RESOLUTION OF CONFERENCE ISSUES. MANY WESTERN DELEGATIONS WERE UNWILLING TO ALLOW RAPID PROGRESS ON BASKETS I AND II UNTIL EASTERN POSITIONS ON CONCRETE BASKET III PROPOSALS BECOME CLEARER. SHERER SUGGESTED SOVIETS COULD STIMULATE PROGRESS BY GIVING SOME INDICATONS OF THEIR THINKING ON THESE ISSUES, AND ASKED IF KOVALEV COULD GIVE ANY INFORMATION ON THESE POINTS.

3 DUTCH DRAFT FRAMEWORK PAPER -- KOVALEV COMPLAINED THAT DUTCH DRAFT FRAMEWORK PAPER, (GENEVA 985 NOTAL), TO BE INTRODUCED IN COORDINATING COMMITTEE FEB 21, WAS AN ATTEMPT TO DELAY WORK BY STARTING A DISCUSSION OF MAJOR ISSUES WHICH ARE NOT YET MATURE. FOR EXAMPLE, SOVIETS WANT ONLY ONE DOCUMENT TO COVER AGENDA ITEM I, WHILE DUTCH PAPER SUGGESTS THERE MAY BE SEVERAL. IN SOVIET VIEW, PAPER ALSO CALLS INTO QUESTION COMPROMISE AGREEMENT ON DRAFTING OF BASKET III PREAMBLE. SOVIET DELEGATION WOULD OBJECT TO ANY DECISION OR DISCUSSION OF THIS PAPER IN COORDINATING COMMITTEE AT PRESENT TIME.

4. SHERER REPLIED THAT HE DID NOT WISH TO TRY TO DEFEND DUTCH PAPER, WHICH WAS NOT A US IDEA. NEVERTHELESS, HE INTERPRETED INTENT OF DUTCH PAPER, WHICH REPRESENTED THINKING OF EC-NINE, AS EFFORT TO EXPEDITE DRAFTING, NOT TO DELAY IT. DUTCH HAD NO INTENTION OF DISCUSSING FORM OF FINAL DOCUMENTS IN COORDINATING COMMITTEE NOW, BUT PLANNED TO SUBMIT THIRD SECTION OF THEIR PAPER AS WESTERN CONTRIBUTION TO DRAFTING OF A BASKET III PREAMBLE. SHERER THOUGHT THIS WAS MEANT AS A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TO DRAFTING, AS FORE-SEEN IN EARLIER COMPROMISE AGREEMTNT. DUTCH HAVE INDICATED THAT THEY CAN BE SOMEWHAT FLEXIBLE AND DO NOT INTEND TO GO BACK ON COMPROMISE. SOVIETS HAVE URGED WESTERN COUNTRIES TO EXPRESS THEIR IDEAS ON BASKET III PREAMBLE; DUTCH PAPER IS RESPONSIVE TO THIS, AND GIVES AN IDEA OF THINKING OF SOME WESTERN COUNTRIES ON THIS SUBJECT. KOVALEV THANKED SHERER FOR HIS EXPLANATIONS AND SUGGESTED THAT US AND SOVIET DELEGATIONS HAVE INFORMAL CONTACT BEFORE

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PAGE 03 GENEVA 01097 210932Z

COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING FEB 21, TO INFORM EACH OTHER OF ANY INTENDED STATEMENTS.

5. BASKET III SUBSTANCE -- RETURNING TO EARLIER QUESTION BY SHERER, KOVALEV SAID PRINCIPLE OF PARALLEL DRAFTING OF PREAMBLE AND SUBSTANCE OF BASKET III WAS NOW WELL ESTABLISHED. PREAMBLE WAS MOST IMPORTANT FOR SOVIETS, SINCE IT WOULD SET UP PRINCIPLES FOR COOPERATION IN THIS AREA. IT WAS ESSENTIAL THAT PRINCIPLE OF NON-INTERFERENCE

IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS BE RECOGNIZED, AND THE FASTER THIS HAPPENS, THE  
FASTER WORK ON THE SUBSTANCE WILL ADVANCE. BREZHNEV HIMSELF HAS  
SAID THAT DETENTE MEANS MORE CONTACTS. YESTERDAY SOVIETS HAD REMOVED  
RESTRICTION ON TRAVEL OF DIPLOMATS OUTSIDE MOSCOW ZONE. THIS WAS  
IMPORTANT DECISION AND SHOWS SOVIET GOODWILL IN HUMANITARIAN AREA.

6. COMMENT: SHERER PLANS TO MAKE STATEMENT IN COORDINATING COMMITTEE FEB 21 RECALLING LONG-STANDING US VIEW THAT CONFERENCE WORK SHOULD

PROCEED AS EXPEDITIOUSLY AS POSSIBLE, AND WELCOMING DUTCH DRAFT AS  
CONSTRUCTIVE CONTRIBUTION TO DRAFTING PROCESS. END COMMENT.DALE

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